

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

20¢ 114
NOV 02457

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

THE CITY'S
BLOWN WIDE
OPEN BY A
GANG WAR!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



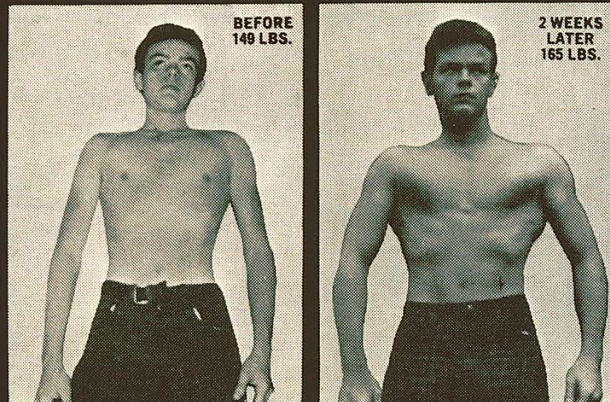
AND THE
MAN IN THE
MIDDLE IS--
ME!

WATCH OUT, SPIDEY!! NEITHER YOU NOR DOC OCK EVER FACED A FOE LIKE--

HAMMERHEAD!

Another JOE WEIDER breakthrough:

THE END OF THE SKINNY BODY.



GAINS UP TO 16 POUNDS IN 14 DAYS —
adds 2 1/4" to each arm, 2 1/4" to his chest!

Walter Leno of Burlington, Vt. reported these fantastic gains in 14 days! Gains 16 pounds, added 2 1/4" to each arm, 2 1/4" to his chest, 1 1/2" to each leg. See what a fresher, more exciting fun-going body he now has—thanks to Crash Weight Formula #7. He says, "All I did was follow the plan and drink a few small glasses of delicious Crash Weight Formula #7—and the improvement I made in just 14 days was beyond my wildest dreams!" Shouldn't this happen to you?

Nobody likes a bag of bones

Flesh out your bones. Fill out your narrow, shallow chest. Your skinny arms. And spindly legs. Here's a totally new breed of nutritional "wildcat" drink that's guaranteed to put an end to your muscle-starved, hungry-looking body. Joe Weider's Crash-Weight Formula #7 is a new scientifically-blended milkshake-flavored drink that lets you drink on as much as up to 14 pounds in 14 days the easy, the delicious, the relaxed way. Just drink 4 zesty glasses of Crash-Weight natural organic with your regular meals and take in up to 3500 extra calories a day. (It's the calories that count when you want to put on some handsome weight!) And Crash-Weight does all the work for you. Piling on the pounds and the weight as the days go by. Check the plan you want in the coupon.

Guaranteed to put weight on you and create a new—fresher—more exciting fun-going you or money back!

JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON NEW POUNDS—FAST! SAFELY!

The Do-It-Yourself Gain-A-Pound-A-Day Kit

This is a 1 day supply of Crash Weight, chock full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight-gaining barrier! You want to gain a pound a day? Half a pound a day? Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easily—enjoyably—without stuffing yourself with heavy-as-lead foods. Now you can. It's as simple as drinking a delicious milkshake.



FREE:

Weight-Gaining and Muscle-Building Course. This 48-page illustrated Guide sent FREE with each Crash-Weight Formula #7 Kit. Crammed with step-by-step instructions in muscle-building and weight-gaining basics. Filled with all the latest ideas and how to adapt them for your own personal, fun-going weight gains!



Fill in this Gain-A-Pound-A-Day-or-Your-Money-Back Guarantee Coupon

JOE WEIDER, Dept. 83-102K10 (Chief of the Bankers)
Box 160, Santa Monica, Calif. 90406
25 Maple Street
Norwood, N.J. 07648

Dear Joe:
I want to put an end to my skinny body and have everyone compliment me on my athletic appearance and muscular gains. Rush me the "pound-a-day" Crash-Weight Formula #7 package I have checked below.

Check Plan & Flavor Desired:
☐ 7-Day Supply... \$ 7.50 ☐ Chocolate
☐ 14-Day Supply... \$14.98 ☐ Vanilla
If it doesn't work, I want my money back. OK?

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Canadian orders filled in Canada—no duty to pay.

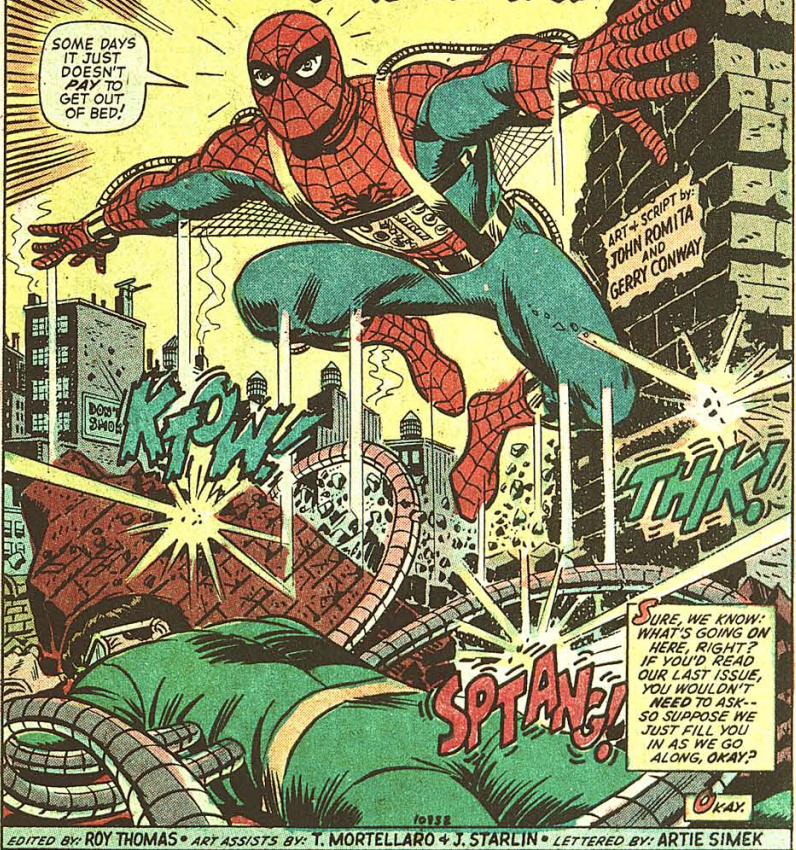
	APD or FFO	N.Y. or S.F.
CRASH-WEIGHT (7-Day)	80	\$175
CRASH-WEIGHT (14-Day)	110	275

SERVICE: TO SPEED YOUR ORDER, U.S. Regulations require that shipments to service men be prepaid. Please add indicated amount as required by your APD or FFO address.

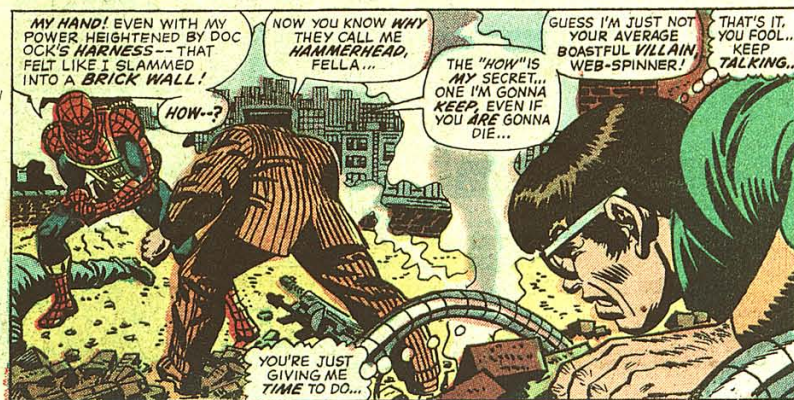
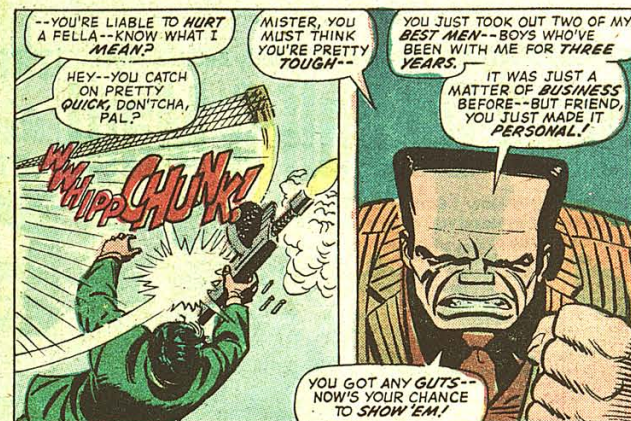
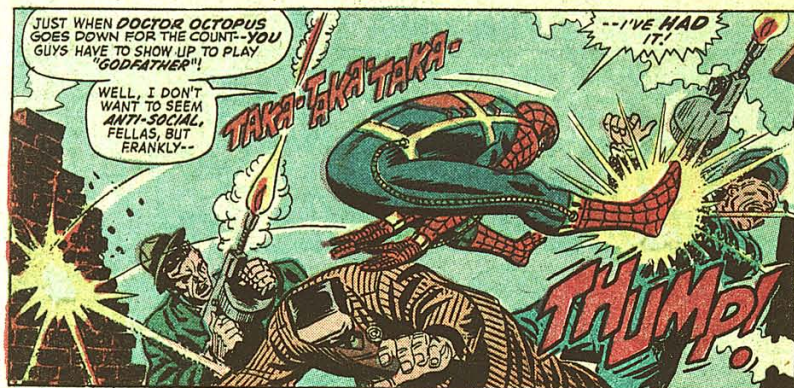
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

GANG WAR, SHMANG WAR! WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS...WHO THE HECK IS

HAMMERHEAD?



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CHARLES ATLAS, World's No. 1 Body Builder, says:

Don't Be Half A Man!

Let ME SHOW How I Can Make You a Real HE-MAN From Head to Toe — in Just 15 Minutes a Day!

Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a real HE-MAN! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach... shy of girls... afraid of healthy competition.

Charles Atlas

WIN THIS VALUABLE TROPHY Be the envy of your friends!

HOW I CHANGED FROM A "MOUSE" TO A MAN!

One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" — a "magic formula" that can help turn you, too, into a marvellous physical specimen... a real HE-MAN from head to toe... a man who STANDS OUT in any crowd! What's my secret? "DYNAMIC-TENSION" — the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body — build them up — use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard SOLID MUSCLE!

MY SECRET BUILDS MUSCLES FAST!

Just 15 minutes each day in the privacy of your room is all it takes to make your chest and shoulder muscles swell so big they almost split your coat seams... turn your fists into sledge-hammers... build mighty legs that never tire! Mail coupon today for my famous book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can give you a Body by Atlas. Charles Atlas, Dept. 6010 115 E. 23 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

5 FREE GIFTS If you act now, in addition to my complete course, you will also get these five valuable outline courses.

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HOW TO WRITE
HOW TO WRITE
HOW TO WRITE
HOW TO WRITE

DO YOU WANT...

- A DEEP CHEST? I can add 10-12 inches of powerful muscle to your chest and give you a deep, powerful chest.
- BIG ARM MUSCLES? I can make your upper arms and forearms swell with the powerful muscles of a strong man.
- TIRELESS LEGS? I can make your legs strong and powerful with the powerful muscles of a strong man.
- MAGNETIC PERSONALITY? "Dynamic-Tension" makes you a "magnetic" man. It gives you the respect and admiration of women.
- BROAD SHOULDERS? "Dynamic-Tension" will broaden your shoulders, making you a powerful man.
- MORE WEIGHT? You'll put on muscle the right way, without "bulking" or "fattening" up.

...THEN MAIL THIS NOW!

HERE'S THE KIND OF BODY I WANT

☐ MORE MUSCLE — BIGGER CHEST

☐ BIG ARM MUSCLES

☐ BROAD BACK & SHOULDERS

☐ TIRELESS LEGS

☐ MORE WEIGHT

☐ MAGNETIC PERSONALITY

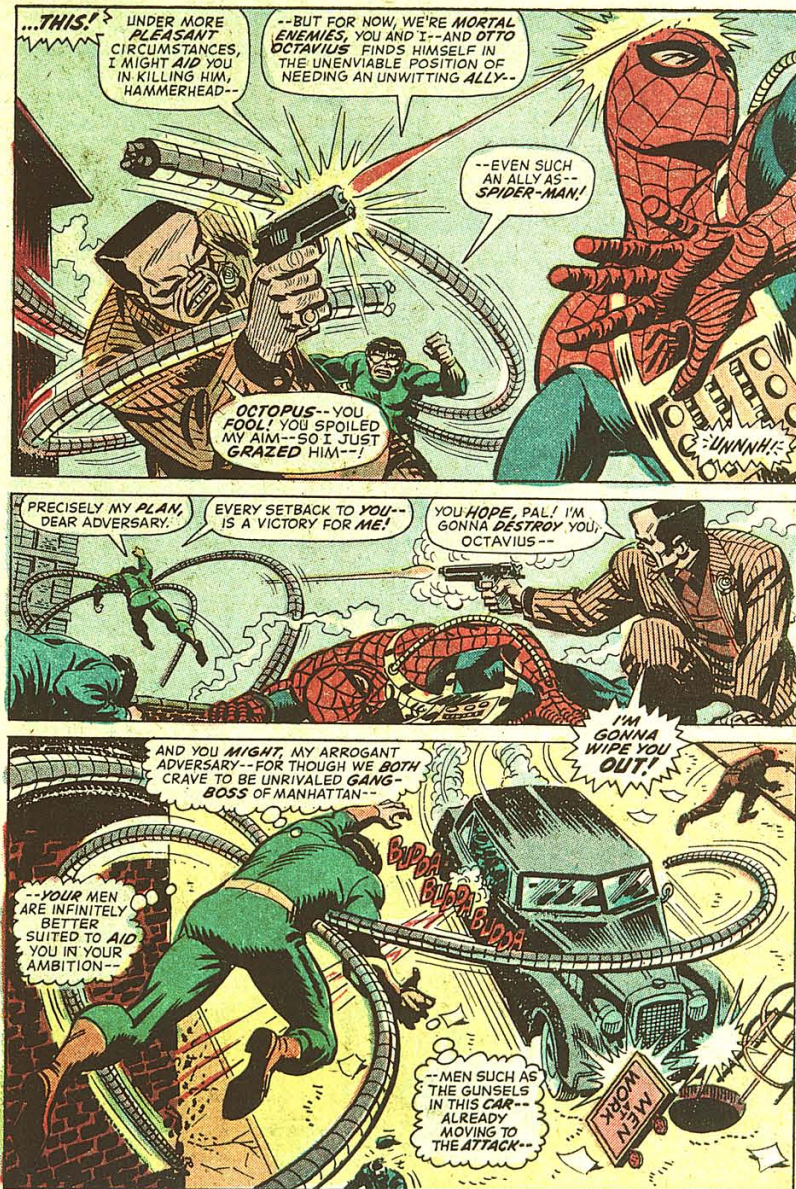
CHARLES ATLAS
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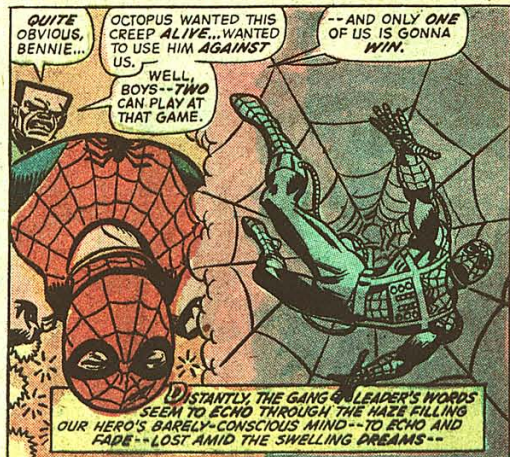
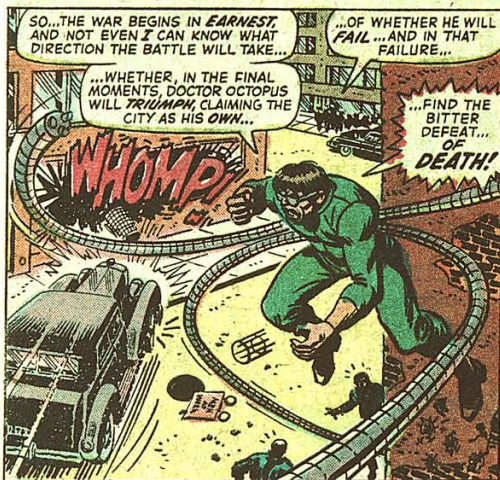
I enclose 10¢. Show me how "Dynamic-Tension" can make me a new man. Send your famous 32-page book, full of pictures, valuable advice. No obligation.

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State.....
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THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Any 14 of these

If you join now and agree to buy ten more records (at regular Club prices)



hit records FOR ONLY \$2.86

during the coming two years (you will have up to 300 records a month to choose from)



Yes, it's true! — If you join now, you may have ANY 14 of these records for only \$2.86. Just mail the application at the right, together with your check or money order for \$2.86, in exchange...

You agree to buy just ten records (at regular Club prices) in the coming two years — and you may cancel membership at any time after doing so.

Your own charge account will be opened upon enrollment ... and the records you order as a member will be mailed and billed at the regular Club price of \$4.98 or \$5.98 each, plus processing and postage. (Multi-record sets are somewhat higher.)

You may accept or reject records as follows: every four weeks you will receive a new copy of the Club's music magazine, which describes the regular selection for each musical interest ... plus hundreds of alternate selections.

... **if you do not want any record** in any month, just return the selection card provided by the date specified

... **if you want only the regular selection** for your musical interest, you need do nothing — it will be shipped to you automatically

... **if you want any of the other records offered**, just order them on the selection card and return it by the date specified.

... **and from time to time** we will offer some special albums, which you may reject by returning the special dated form provided ... or accept by simply doing nothing.

You'll be eligible for our bonus plan upon completing your enrollment agreement — a plan which enables you to get one record of your choice free (only 25¢ for processing and postage) for every one you buy thereafter. Act now — fill in and mail the application today!

Columbia Record Club
a service of
Columbia House
Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

COLUMBIA RECORD CLUB, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808
I am enclosing check or money order for \$2.86 as payment for the 14 records below. Please accept my membership application. I agree to purchase ten records (at regular Club prices) during the coming two years, and may cancel membership any time thereafter. If I continue, I'll be eligible for your bonus plan.

Send these 14 records—I've enclosed check or money order for \$2.86

All records will be described in advance in the Magazine, sent every four weeks. If I do not want any record, I'll return the selection card by the date specified ... or use the card to order any record I want. If I want only the regular selection for my musical interest, I need do nothing—it will be sent automatically. From time to time, I'll be offered special albums which I may accept or reject by using the dated form provided.

MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS

☐ Easy Listening ☐ Young Sounds ☐ Jazz
☐ Country ☐ Broadway & Hollywood ☐ Classical

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. (Please print) First Name Initial Last Name

Address:

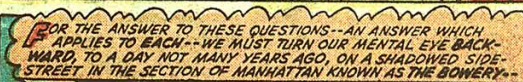
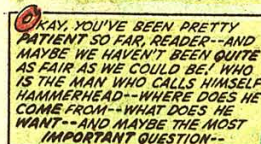
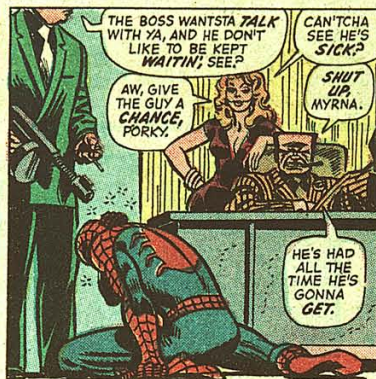
City:

State:

Do you have a telephone? (check one) ☐ YES ☐ NO

APR/PO addresses: write for special offer

(85-2) DOL



THE OLD MAN'S NAME WAS HARROW! JONAS HARROW, A FORMER SURGEON, DISCREDITED FOR QUITE TRADITIONAL REASONS INVOLVING CERTAIN UNHAPPY... EXPERIMENTS...

AL CAPONE MOB

AS FOR THE GUNMAN HE DISCOVERED IN THAT LONELY ALLEYWAY, BEATEN AND DISFIGURED, DELIRIOUS WITH PAIN...

...HIS NAME IS GONE, LOST WITH SO MANY OTHER THINGS IN THAT WOUNDED BRAIN...

...THE BRAIN JONAS HARROW SOUGHT TO REPAIR, RECOGNIZING ONE LAST, DESPERATE CHANCE TO REDEEM HIS LOST REPUTATION...

...AS WELL AS TO SAVE A QUICKLY-FADING LIFE...

FOR THREE DAYS, JONAS HARROW LABORED, REPLACING SHATTERED BONE WITH UNBENDABLE STEEL ALLOY...

...AND FOR THREE DAYS, THE NAMELESS PATIENT DREAMED, HIS MIND FILLED WITH IMAGES FROM THE MOVIE-POSTER HE'D GLIMPSED IN HIS LAST CONSCIOUS MOMENT...

NEITHER HARROW NOR THE MAN WHOSE LIFE HE'D SAVED EVER LEARNED THE GUNMAN'S TRUE IDENTITY--OR WHY HE WAS BEATEN AND LEFT TO DIE--

IT NO LONGER MATTERED.

WHAT MAN WAS DEAD-- ONLY A MUTILATED "HAMMERHEAD" SURVIVED.

WELL, BUSTER? ARE YOU IN OR NOT?

TAKE YOUR TIME...

IT COULD BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER SAY!

STALL, SPIDEY... STALL! YOU'RE STILL WEAK... DIZZY FROM THAT SCALP WOUND...

LIKE IT OR NOT... YOUR WHOLE LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

SO STALL, MR. PARKER... STALL!

12

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

APPROVED BY THE U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR

THESE 3 BIG DRAFTING KITS* GIVEN TO YOU!

...when you train at home with NASD for a

HIGH PAY JOB IN DRAFTING!

Take Your Pick of 2 EXCITING FIELDS

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Earns \$820 Monthly! "My first position after completing your course jumped my income from \$350 to \$820 per month." —G. W. Tenn.

Big Promotions! "I was promoted from the production line ahead of 4 others and got a good pay raise." —W. A. Wisc.

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SAMPLE LESSON

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NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AND WHILE OUR HARRIED HERO GAMBLES FOR PRECIOUS MOMENTS, WE'LL TURN OUR ATTENTION ELSEWHERE, TO THE NORMALLY-SEDATE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, A GABLED HOUSE OVERLOOKING THE HUDSON SHORE--



--AND THE ALL-TOO FAMILIAR FIGURE OF A SURREPTITIOUS DOG OCK!

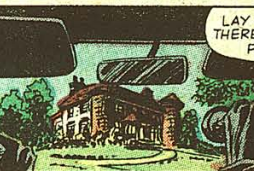


THAT'S HIM, ERNIE.

LOOKS LIKE OUR TAIL PAID OFF!



KEEP YOUR EYE ON HIM, BERT. I'LL CALL THE BOSS.



LAY YOU FIVE TO ONE THERE'S A BONUS IN THIS FOR US, ERNIE.

HAMMER-HEAD'S A HARD MAN--BUT A FAIR ONE.



I'LL GET IT, BOSS.

BREEE-BREEP!

DO THAT, BENNIE.

I'VE GOT A FEELING OUR PAL HERE NEEDS A LITTLE COAXING--

--AN' THAT'S SOMETHING I WANT TO HANDLE MYSELF!



HEY, HAMMERHEAD--MAYBE YOU WANNA HEAR THIS FIRST-HAND.

IT'S ERNIE--SOUNDS LIKE THE TAIL WE PUT ON OCTOPUS WORKED OUT REAL GOOD.

YOU GOT YOURSELF A FEW MORE MINUTES, SPIDER-MAN.



USE 'EM TO THINK BRIGHT THOUGHTS.

I'LL TRY, HANDSOME.

I CAN FEEL MY STRENGTH RETURNING... JUST ANOTHER FEW SECONDS...

FROWNING, HIS EYES NARROWING WITH CONCENTRATION, THE CRIME-LORD LISTENS--AND SO DOES HIS UNWILLING GUEST, SPIDER--SENSES SHARPENING HIS ALREADY KEEN HEARING--

...WESTCHESTER, GOT HIMSELF A REAL, LITTLE PALACE, JUST HIM AND SOME OLD BROAD.

NO GUARDS, EHP? A REAL SET-UP! YOU'N BERT STAY ON THE SPOT...

I'LL BE UP THERE IN THIRTY MINUTES FLAT.



*RIGHT AFTER PETER MOVED OUT, IN ISSUE #34--ROY.

"AN OLD BROAD"? COULD IT BE--COULD IT POSSIBLY BE AUNT MAY?

SHE KNOWS HIM--HE BOARDED AT OUR HOUSE AS OTTO OCTAVIUS--



--BUT SHE NEVER REALIZED, NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHAT KIND OF A MAN OCTOPUS REALLY IS!

HAS HE KIDNAPPED HER--AND IF HE HAS--DOES THAT MEAN HE'S UNCOVERED SPIDER-MAN'S TRUE IDENTITY?

IF ONLY I COULD KNOW--BE SURE WHAT TO DO--!

PORKY, TELL JIMMY TO START THE CAR.

WE'VE GOT THINGS TO DO.



ONCE THE KINGPIN GOT HIMSELF PINCHED IN LAS VEGAS, THIS TOWN WAS WIDE-OPEN--JUST WAITIN' FOR ANYONE TO COME ALONG AND GRAB THE CHIPS!

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT MEDDLIN' OCTOPUS CHARACTER, I'D BE THE BOSS IN THIS BURG.

HE'S GONNA BE SORRY HE EVER CROSSED HAMMER-HEAD--

GOOD AND SORRY--!



LOOK, AH, FRIEND--I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT OFFER OF YOURS--



--AND IF THE PROPOSAL STILL STANDS, I'D LIKE TO--

HANDS OFF, CREEP!

--AND EVEN IF I DECIDE YOU'RE SERIOUS, THERE'S ONE THING YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO LEARN--

NOBODY TOUCHES HAMMERHEAD, Y'HEAR? NOBODY!



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LOOK, FELLOWS!

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GRIT PUBLISHING CO.,
Williamsport, Pa., 17701

PLEASE PRINT
Dept. MC 102

Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers.

Name _____

Are You a Boy? _____ Age _____ Date Born _____ Year _____

In Care of _____

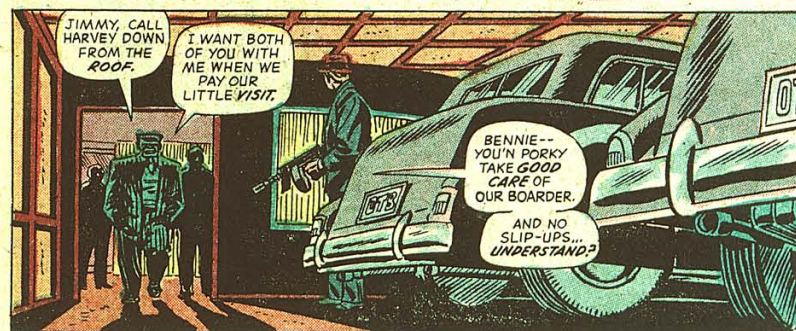
Street and No. _____ R.F.D. _____

Post Office _____ State _____

Zip Code No. _____

Print Your
Last Name
Plainly Here

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Learn the secret of T.V.'s fantastic No-Pill, No-Exercise, ONE-DAY reducing formula! Eat your fill! Go to sleep! Wake up! — and you have lost up to 5 Pounds. Amazing? Sure! But guaranteed to work or YOUR MONEY BACK! Send only \$1.00 (Sorry, No C.O.D.'s)

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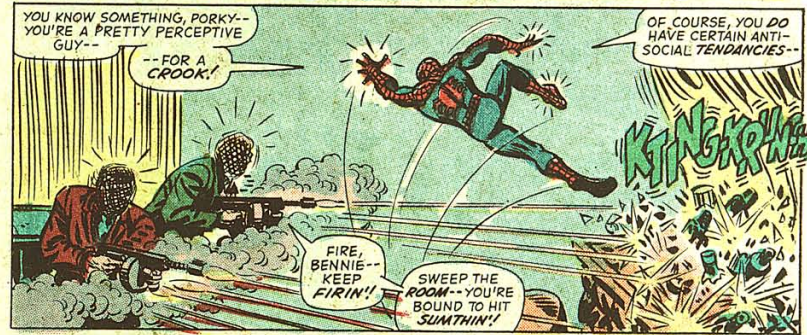
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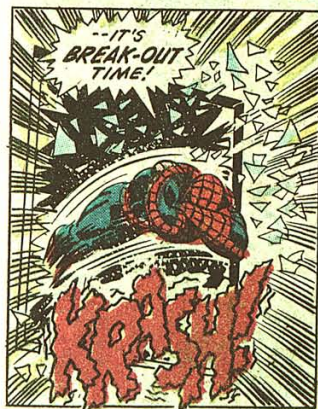
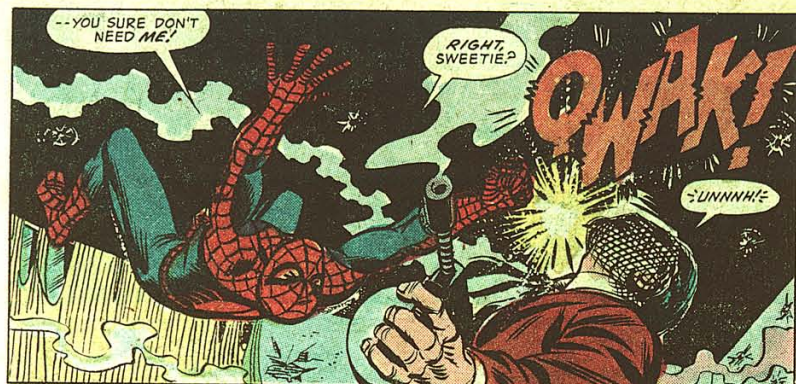
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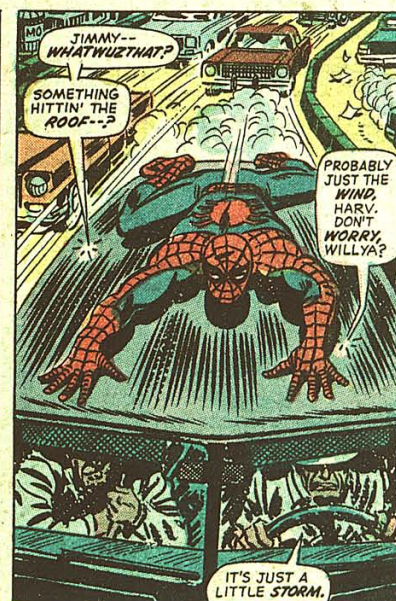
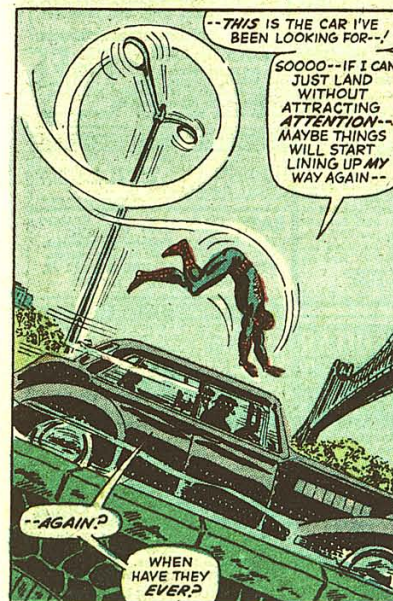
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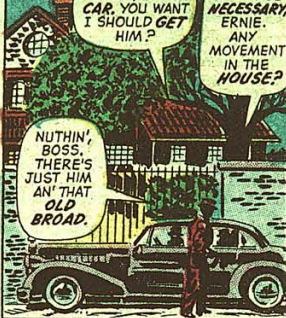
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WE BEEN WATCHIN' THE HOUSE SINCE WE CALLED YA, BOSS.

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THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, ERNIE. ANY MOVEMENT IN THE HOUSE?



NUTHIN', BOSS. THERE'S JUST HIM AN' THAT OLD BROAD.

WATCH IT, FELLA-- THAT "OLD BROAD" MAY JUST BE MY AUNT MAY.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PLAY THIS CAREFULLY, THOUGH--

I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT YOU CLOWNS BOTCHING THINGS UP-- JUST WHEN I'M SO CLOSE TO FINDING HER!



BOSS SAYS TO MOVE IN QUIETLY, ERNIE.

DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S WORRIED ABOUT, THO--

--WITH JUST ONE GUY AND SOME CRAZY DAME--

--SEEMS TO ME WE DON'T GOT NUTHIN' TO--

HUH?

TIMMY...



WAK!



REALLY HATE TO HIT AN' RUN, FELLAS--

--BUT YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING, DON'T YOU?



AS THE SAYING GOES--I'VE GOT A MAN TO SEE--



--EVEN IF I DON'T WANT HIM SEEING ME!

OUTASITE...!



OCKIE'S SO BUSY BROODING-- PROBABLY PLANNING HIS NEXT FORAY AGAINST HAMMERHEAD--

--HE'S NOT EVEN AWARE HIS PLACE IS BEING WATCHED--



--AND FOR THAT MATTER-- INVADERS!

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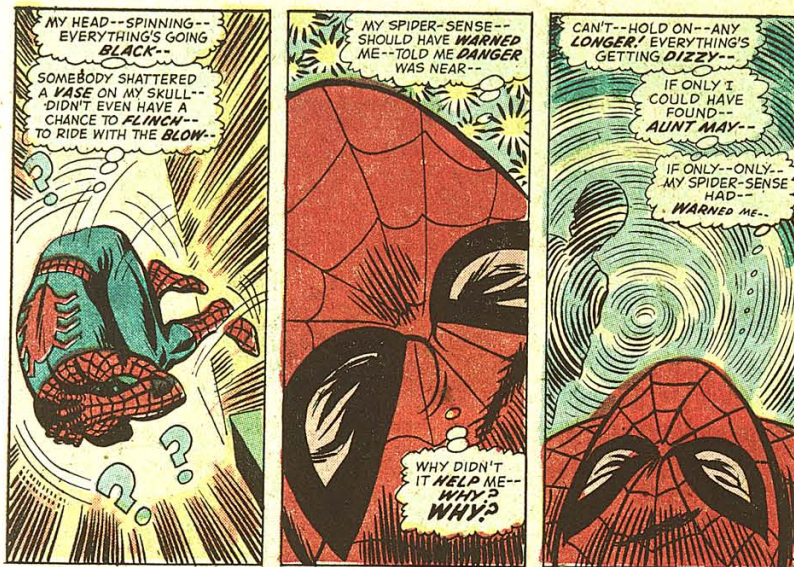
--WAIT UNTIL I CATCH SIGHT OF AUNT MAY-- IF SHE'S HERE--

THEN, IF AND WHEN I FIND HER, I CAN--



CRASH!

UNNNNNHHH!



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Since badges used by various state and federal agencies vary considerably, all badges shown here are simulated.



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LANDS JOB FIRST DAY AFTER GRADUATION. Finished my last lesson and examination on Sunday and Monday I began work for the U.S. Dept. of Fish & Game. This is what I consider my first real job. I'm in charge of the island's game resources. I'm in charge of the island's game resources. I'm in charge of the island's game resources.

COURSE BIG GAME FROM "CHOPPER" MY and the experience of a lifetime! The Game Fish & Park Dept. called me and wanted me to be in charge of the island's game resources. I'm in charge of the island's game resources. I'm in charge of the island's game resources.

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Wildlife Officer
Wildlife Protector
Conservation Officer
Conservation Inspector
Big Game Census Assistant
Forest Insect Ranger
Pest Control Assistant
Fish & Wildlife Assistant
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Assistant Park Ranger
Recreation Area Manager
Park Attendant
Fire Inspector
Fire Control Aid
Forest Fire Lookout
County Ranger
Forest Officer
Forestry Technician
Inspector
- FISHERIES SERVICE**
Fish Warden
Fish Management Specialist
Fisheries Technician
Fish Hatcheryman
Fish Culturist
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Know, something? We Bullpenners are so excited about all the new mags we're creating for you that I don't know which to talk about first. So, instead of beating the drums for **CLAWS OF THE CAT**, **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY**, **JUNGLE ACTION**, **GUN-HAWKS**, **NIGHT NURSE**, **DOC SAVAGE**, or **SHANNA**, **THE SHE-DEVIL**—I'm not even gonna mention 'em! I'll leave it to Rascally Roy to clue you in elsewhere on this page, now and in following issues. Instead, I'll just take another few secs to say "Hi" to all the great guys and gals I met during my most recent lecture tour at the Nassau Community College, the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, Nashville Tennessee's Vanderbilt U., and good ol' Montana State. And, in case you think that the mighty Marvel craze is just a passing fad, you'd change your mind faster than Spidey can wiggle a web if you could have shared the wondrous welcomes at those hallowed halls of learning! (See? That'll prove I really can write a couple of sentences without plugging one of our titanic titles—titles such as **WYATT EARP**, **GOTHIC THRILLERS**, **SPOOF**—aw, forgive me, gang. This is a heckuva way for a Dr. of Comitology to behave!)

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Mind if we let you in on still another facet of just what goes on behind the scenes and in the minds of that amorphous entity we call the Mighty Marvel Bullpen? We didn't think so. Anyway, for years now, we've wanted to start a comic-mag which dealt exclusively with the derring-do of a gal superstar, instead of the usual hunk of masculine muscle. So, recently, Stan and Roy sat down to discuss what kind of book they should put out—and guess what! They came up with no less than three vastly different concepts, each of which they dug so much they ended up sticking all three on this summer's hectic schedule—two which being this month, plus another that'll wing your way next time around!

First and foremost of these new spec-taculars just has to be the far-out new feature we call: **THE CLAWS OF THE CAT**! And if the title doesn't tell you that it's destined to be one of the most action-packed, most talked-about new mags of this or any other year, we'll burn our vintage MMS cards! What's more, **THE CAT** is drawn by none other than **MARIE SEVERIN**—and written by former Marvel staffer **LINDA FITE**, to boot! (At least this time, nobody's gonna be able to write in and say we've got artists and writers who don't understand the female of the species!) Also on sale right now is **LINDA CARTER**, **NIGHT NURSE**, drawn by longtime pro **WINSLOW MORTIMER** and scripted by Roy's

own lovely lady, **JEANIE THOMAS**. Yeah, we know—it sounds like just another romance mag, however well-written and drawn; but take it from us, friend—this one is realistic, exciting—and different! And next month sees the dramatic debut of **SHANNA**, **THE SHE-DEVIL**—starring perhaps the most beautiful and offbeat jungle heroine in the history of the graphic arts! **GEORGE TUSKA** is penciling that one, and it's being penned by longtime comic buff **CAROL SEULING**. That's right, effendi—three great new mags, all written by gals—yet aimed neither at gals nor at guys, but at true lovers of comic literature everywhere! Try 'em—you'll like 'em!

ITEM! If you've latched onto the brand new premiere issue of **CHAMBER OF CHILLS**, Marvel's newest and most nightmarish weird-type entry—of if you dug last month's **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** #1—then doubtless you've noticed that we've added something a wee bit new to this kind of anthology title! For the foreseeable future (and we've got a ziny new crystal ball), virtually each and every issue of these two mags; plus the fast-upcoming **GOTHIC THRILLERS** already in the works, will headline an eerie adaptation of a masterpiece by a major fantasy author! **JOURNEY** #1 featured a tale by the late great **ROBERT E. HOWARD**, creator of Conan and Kull—and the first ish of **CHAMBER** features a story by world-famed author **HARLAN ELLISON**, whose recent *Agan, Dangerous Visions* hardcover volume is already destined to become one of the great sf works of the 70's! Also on hand in near-future issues of our terror-laden triumvirate will be the likes of **THEODORE STURGEON**, **ROBERT BLOCH** (author of *Psycho*), and a whole horde of the greatest names in imaginative fiction! They'll be backed up by plenty of original stories as well, written by some of the finest scripters in the history of comic—and together, they're gonna knock you right out of your haunted house!

ITEM! You'll see a few new names in our credi-captions this time around. We'll let you seek 'em out for yourself—but here's a bit of background: **IRV WESLEY**, a former Bullpen great in the fabulous 50's, has returned to the fold to help us out with the latest saga of one of our most unique heroes! Then there's a lad named **CRAIG RUSSELL**, who works with oldtimer **DAN ADKINS** out in the wilds of Ohio! Oh yes, and how could we forget **JIM TARLIN**, a talented newcomer, who's also been assisting **JOHN ROMITA** on Spidey's recent capers! Jim, by the way, was brought to Marvel by another of its new lights, **RICH BUCKLER**! Face it, friends and neighbors—Stan was telling it like it is when he said that the whole Marvel gang was turned on by all the new mags and new projects we've got out our collective sleeve! In fact, the latest word around the Bullpen is that when you work for mighty Marvel, you're not just an artist—you're also a talent scout!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
NOW ON SALE!A Genuine Grab-bag of
Galvanizin' Goodies!

SPIDER-MAN #114: Spidey's got a spanking-new ulcer, right? And he's caught smack-dab in the middle of a gang war between Doc Ock and Hammerhead, right? So does that clue you in about which Marvel mag is definitely one of the wildest, woolliest chillers of the month? Right!!

THOR #205: The Thunder God vs. Mephisto—in the haunted halls of the Sub-World! And the demon's allies are none other than Thor's most trusted friends—including the lady-Siff Get it!

CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #155: So you think you know all about the beginnings of our star-spangled stalwart? Well, wait'll you read—the Secret Origin of Captain America! A shocker!

SPOOF #2: Archie Bunkum lives! Don't miss "Brawl in the Family!" Plus—"Tarzan and the Apes," and some titillating "Tales from the Creep!"

CHAMBER OF CHILLS #1: Harlan Ellison's "Delusion for a Dragon-Slayer!" And two more of the most macabre masterworks of all "Nuff said!

THE CLAWS OF THE CAT #1: The dream of a dedicated genius—or the nightmare of a twisted madman? Which will win in the battle for the soul of the masked huntress we call—the Cat? With the most mind-staggering final page yet!

Not to mention these Bringers of Wonderment:

FANTASTIC FOUR #128 (The battle to the finish with the Mole Man!)—**AVENGERS** #105—**HULK** #157 (The Rhino returns!)—**DAREDEVIL** #93—**SUB-MARINER** #55—**IRON MAN** #52—**CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #20—**TOMB OF DRACULA** #5 (The Count takes a time-trip!)—**KULL THE CONQUEROR** #5—**NIGHT NURSE** #1—**WEREWOLF BY NIGHT** #2—**CAPTAIN MARVEL** #23—**MARVEL PREMIERE** #5 (Dr. Strange lives!)—**MARVEL TEAM-UP** #5—**MARVEL FEATURE** #6 (Ant-Man and the Wasp—together again!)—**CREATURES ON THE LOOSE** #20—**RED WOLF** #4—**AMAZING ADV.** #1—**SGT. FURY** #104—and other winners too numerous (too humorous?) to mention!...



THE SPIDERS WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR, 315 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

Dear Stan and John,

You are about to destroy a friendship. I have been reading **SPIDER-MAN** nearly all my life. Though I can no longer remember the year, I do know that I have been reading Spidey since his debut in **AMAZING ADULT FANTASY**. At the time, I was in the fourth grade (like most American children my life is measured in terms of school years—September to June, the summer being a whole separate calendar—and rarely in terms of actual years), and **AAF** was the first Marvel Comic I had ever bought.

I am now in college, so I have indeed grown, developed, and matured with Peter Parker. There was a time when I knew and understood his problems. They were well-conceived, obviously the motivations of a teenager trying to find his way in a world which paid homage to the athlete and made a joke of the book-worm. Peter was unusually mature for his age, partly due to his intellect, and partly due to his role as an outcast. It is always, it seems, the unwanted in our society who are the first to learn compassion, understanding, and the quiet inner strength which allows them to stand up to the agony of being laughed at.

Peter's problems at this time were, as I've said, infinitely believable. He was groping for an understanding of himself and others. This is hard and painful, but must be endured by us all. I loved Spidey then, I learned much from him. I, myself, was burdened with many of Spidey's identity problems, though I was an athlete, and not a student, I had my share of tribulations in trying to attain a sense of self (finding my place in the scheme of things, overcoming inferiority problems brought about by the feeling that I was the ugliest kid on earth—childhood things, outgrown in time.) So I grew with Peter.

Now I've just finished **SPIDEY** #110, partially pleased, partially distraught. Your handling of Aunt May is to be commended. I have been hoping for a long time that someone would say the things that needed to be said. It seems right that Gwen should be the one to say them. It is also right that, though trying hard to accept and survive these things, Aunt May has overreacted and made the ultimate self-sacrifice—getting out of Peter's life, as she apparently has. This is tragic, an all-out effort must be made by Peter and Gwen to bring her back; she must be made to see that though she can no longer play nursemaid for a grown man, she is still deeply loved and needed. If Peter and Gwen love her, as I'm sure they do, this must be accomplished.

But you are faced with a greater problem. Peter and Gwen. It just isn't believable anymore. I believe you are making one mistake. You are forgetting that this is no longer the completely adolescent Peter, he is no longer totally lacking in self-confidence as he was as a schoolboy. He has grown; many of the earlier feelings of inadequacy are no longer a part of him now. He has friends, he has the upper hand with JJJ, he has Gwen's love. Why do you insist on making us believe that he cannot believe he is capable of being loved? He is far more mature than he once was, though he hasn't quite made it all the way. He hasn't solved all his problems; which of us has?

Again Peter reminds me of myself, I too, am just beginning to find my way to the light. I have found a girl (much like Gwen—beautiful, blond, wonderful, loving, caring) and though she is not yet in love with me, if she ever is and tells me so, I will believe her. Why can't Peter? It would be understandable if he did, but still was somewhat insecure—old habits die slowly, do

they not? A rival such as Flash Thompson would scare the hell out of me too. But Peter has gone into an all-out panic—he has completely forgotten that Gwen loves him, and is sure that she is continually in Flash's arms.

Doesn't he trust her at all? Has he not the slightest shred of faith in her? I think he must, else he could not love her. No, I take that back, he might still love her, but if he thought she was the kind to lead the sort of double life that would allow her to play with his affections, while holding secret meetings with Flash, he could not possibly like her. Anxiety over Flash's intentions, yes; total panic and lack of faith in Gwen, NO!

I spoke at the onset of a destroyed friendship. Spidey and I have grown as close for many years. Now, for the first time, I find myself annoyed, aggravated, and, indeed, frustrated by the irrational, illogical, and inhuman way Peter is acting. He has grown up since his early years; don't let him back up now.

Sincerely, and with great respect
for all the work you've done through the years.

Jeff H. Berlin, 5 Sound Beach Road
Bayville, N.Y. 11709

P.S. I don't expect to see this letter in print due to its length and lack of coordination. It came pouring out and that's the way I set it down. I could have straightened it all out, but that seemed wrong. There is too much emphasis on order and correct manner already, free feeling is needed for once. I would, however, greatly appreciate a response if you have the time. I'd like to hear what you really think about Peter Parker.

And you will, Jeff, because no letter we've received on Spidey in quite a while has reached us the way yours has. So we sat down with Johnny Romita and let him tell us his feelings on your comments.

When Johnny took over editorial responsibility for Peter Parker several years ago, he and Stan tried to plan the direction they wanted the magazine to go in—and came to a unique conclusion: Peter is too real, after years of existence, to be manipulated by behind-the-scenes artists and writers. Johnny says, "Gerry and I have almost nothing to do with what happens in the book any more. Pete's life grows by itself, like Topsy. We just ask ourselves what he would do if the past has occurred as presented; in fact, after several instances of working out situations for Pete to get into, we had to decide that Pete, as we know him, would never really get into them."

You see, Pete is a real person to Johnny and Gerry. There is nobody sitting around saying "Let's mess up Pete and Gwen, 'cause we haven't done that number for a while." No, if Pete fouls up, it's because he's still basically a foul-up, no matter how cool he'd like to believe he is. Sure, he's grown since his early days, but, like anybody, his self-image and his reality are not necessarily the same.

But it's his growth and change that's really important here, since that, we feel, is what has disturbed you. Everybody's had experiences where they got together with somebody they knew earlier in their life, and found that this person had changed from the way they remembered him, because he had been living in different places, doing different things, mingling with different people—and so reacting differently to the same events. Perhaps Peter Parker and Jeff Berlin have grown up differently from the same beginnings; that's what happens to real people; that's what makes life with all its varied people interesting.

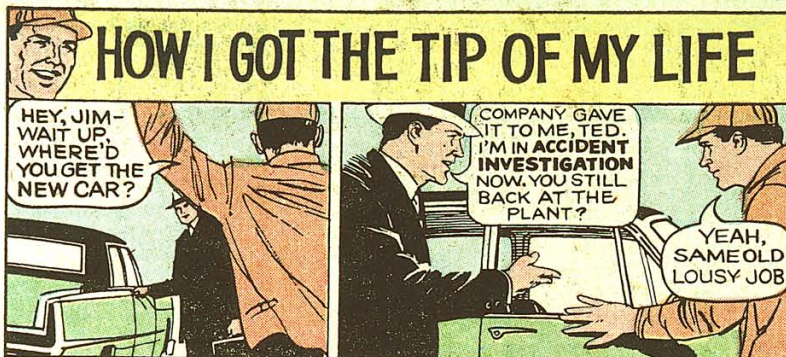
Obviously, you feel, as we do, that Pete is a real person, and as he gropes his way through life like all of us, we hope you'll keep watching. Maybe his successes and failures can still teach you a thing or two.

'Nuff said, Jeff!

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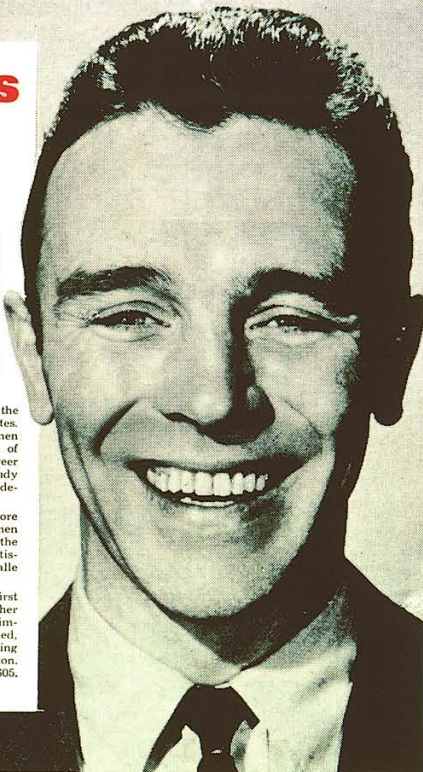
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